THE

LETTER

Sent by the States General of the

United Provinces

Of the *Low-Countreys*

TO

HIS MAJESTY,

By their Trumpeter:

Together with His

Majesties Answer

To the said LETTER.

Translated out of *French* into *English*.

Published by his Majesties special Command.

Reprinted at *DUBLIN* by *Benjamin Tooke*, Printer to the KING's most Excellent Majes
And are to be Sold by *Joseph Wilde* Bookseller in *Castle-street*. 1673.

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SIRE,

As we have never desired any thing more than to merit the good Will of your Majesty, and to cultivate a Friendship which had been heretofore Hereditary between your Majesties Kingdom and this Republick; so we were beyond measure troubled when we saw your Majesty exasperated against us, and that by the Artifices of evil minded persons your Subjects and ours have been overwhelmed with those miseries which are inseparable from War, and brought to shed that bloud which hath been always dear to either side. The sad experience we had thereof on both parts in the preceding War, had given us cause to believe at the same time, that after we were re-united, the peace would be a blessing which was no more to be wished from us. And we were the rather confirmed in this belief, because the new Alliances we were entered into, seemed able to make our Union eternal: But seeing Divine providence, for the Chastisement of the Two Nations, hath permitted that things should not continue long in that happy estate, we no sooner perceived a mis-understanding arise, but we thought our selves obliged to use all imaginable endeavours to stop the progress of it, and to omit nothing that might contribute to the preventing so great an evil as that of a Rupture. In order to which, being certainly informed that your Majesty was offended at a medal, which we had not suffered to be sold, but that we thought it very innocent, we immediately suppressed it, and caused the very Stamps to be broken for fear there might be some made secretly; And to give your Majesty essential proofs of the esteem we had of your friendship, we yielded to your Majesty whatever you were pleased to demand of us in behalf of the Inhabitants of Surinam, how prejudicial soever the thing were to us, and whatsoever reason we otherwise had not to consent to it. At the same time we sent the Sieur Van Beuningen to your Majesty for removing, if it were possible, the sinister impressions which some laboured to possess your Majesty with, and for perfecting a Regulation proposed by your Majesties Ambassador between your East-India Company and ours. Since that, although the little success which the said Sieur Van Beuningen's Negotiation had, gave us but too great cause to fear that we should not succeed better for the future; yet we no sooner understood that there were some who would perswade your Majesty as well against all likelihood of truth, as truth it self, That we treated underhand with France to the prejudice of your Majesty's interests, but we gave order without delay to our Ambassador with your Majesty, to declare to your Majesty in our name, That to shew the falshood of those reports which were spread abroad to our disadvantage, and to give your Majesty essential and unquestionable marks of the sincerity of our intentions, we were ready to enter into such an Alliance with you as you should think fit, how strict soever it should be, and to go far beyond any thing we had hitherto done, for securing the peace of Europe. Then followed the affair of the Flags, wherein we think our conduct hath been with all imaginable respect towards your Majesties Person: And although the answer we gave to your Ambassadors memorial be such as we shall always be ready to submit to the judgment of all Europe, yet upon complaint that it was obscure and insufficient, we sent an Ambassador Extraordinary to your Majesty, and gave power to him, as also to our Ordinary Ambassador, to clear what should be thought obscure, and to add what should be necessary: But instead of entring into regular Conferences with them, and letting them know what was defective in our answer, they were neglected, and no Conference granted

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granted them upon the point which might have ended all our differences, till an hour after your Majestie's Declaration of War had been read and approved in your Council.

All this, SIRE, doth sufficiently evidence with what application and zeal we have laboured to satisfie your Majesty, and to extinguish in its beginning a Fire which is ready to consume all Christendom. And as we have not entred into this War but from an indispensable necessity of defending and protecting our Subjects, we have ever since the Rupture, as much as we were able, sought your Majestie's Friendship, and never given over the making overtures of peace. Upon which account we sent our Deputies Extraordinary to your Majesty the last year in the moneth of June in the year 167[illegible] who were confined to Hampton-court without having any Audience given them, or being heard what they had to say on our part. A minister from the Elector Brandenburgh passed also into England upon the same Subject, and charged himself, at our request, with the representing to your Majesty the ardent desire we had to see your Majesty entertain other sentiments, and our disposition to do any thing in our power to acquire again the honour of your Majesties good correspondence. Since that, upon the proposition made by the mediators of a general Truce, for as much as according to our judgement we could not consent to it, without hazarding the safety of our States; yet to evidence to your Majesty how great a desire we had to give you all possible marks of our respect, and to the end to procure to your Subjects all the advantages which they could have received from a general Truce, we offered one by Sea to your Majesty for the term of a year, or a longer time, if your Majesty thought convenient; judging that in the condition things were then in, we could not give a greater proof of the ardent passion we had to smooth the way to a happy Reconciliation, then by putting all your Majesties Subjects into a condition of tasting the sweetness of peace, while ours should suffer all the incommodities of War. The ministers of the King of Spain have represented the same things from time to time to your majesty, and have often repeated their instances to incline your majesty to peace: But besides all these advances, and the steps we have made in publick, we have made use of other means which we judged more efficatious: And His Highness the Prince of Orange, as well of his own inclination as at the request we have several times reiterated to him, hath used all imaginable [illegible] of regaining the honour of your majestie's friendship for us, and representing to you the advantage and glory your majesty might acquire, by re-establishing the quiet of Christendom, and giving Us a peace which we had so often and so ardently desired. But albeit we had all reason to hope, that the [illegible] Prince, who hath the honour to be so nearly related to your majesty, and whose personal merit is so well known, would at last prevail over those who are ill-affected to us; and that besides we could hardly believe, that after His Highness's interests and ours were become common and were no longer separate in any thing, your majesty would retain your former sentiments, and go about to involve in our ruine one of the most Illustrious Princes of your blood, we have nevertheless with great sorrow seen that all these reasons have been alike weak, and that your majesty hath not been induced by any motive to abate any thing of your first rigour. So that when we expected a favourable answer to our Overtures, it hath been declared to us at Cologne, that no peace was to be hoped, unless there were accorded not onely to your majesty and the most Christian King, but also to the Elector of Cologne and the Bishop of Munster, such conditions as never were demanded of a Free people, and which can so little be proposed as Articles of peace, that they can onely be the consequences of an absolute Conquest, the subversion of the Reformed Religion, of which your Majesty and the Kings your most Illustrious predecessors have been the strongest Support and Defenders, and which carried with them at once the utter ruine not onely of us, but also of the Low Countries belonging to the King of Spain.

This hath obliged us on our side, after we had resolved upon a necessary defence, to press our friends to enter into a stricter Alliance with us; And it hath pleased God so to bless our endeavours, and the means we have used in order thereunto, that the most August House of Austria hath declared [illegible]

favour, and the most serene King of Spain in particular hath concluded with us a League Offensive and Defensive, in pursuance whereof he hath already declared War against the King of France. Things being thus, SIRE, your Majesty will easily believe that the consequences will be greater, but before the evil be past remedy we thought fit to make one final essay, and to assure your majesty that whatsoever change hath hapned in Europe, our deference and respect for your Majesty is still the same; and that how considerable and how potent soever our Allies are, we are not therefore disposed to give your majesty all the satisfaction which you can reasonably pretend; And we have this happiness, that our Allies are of the same mind with us herein; we presume therefore to hope that your Majesty will not refuse at our request and their intercession, what we have not been hitherto able to obtain; And that you will not augment the desolation which is already but too Universal.

But that we may omit nothing that may dispose your Majesty thereunto, we beseech you to reflect upon all that hath passed since the beginning of the War, and at the same time to consider that it is from a particular one become general. When your Majesty engaged in it we were the onely Enemies; At present a great part of Europe is no less interessed therein than we; And your Majesty cannot continue a War, which hath already been so ruinous, without declaring it against those who are united with us, and without hazarding the safety of all Christendom, if the Arms of the King of France should be victorious through the succours given by your Majesty to him. And your Majesty can no longer take it ill that we yield not what your Majesty might demand of us for France, since by an indispensable necessity we can no longer do it but with the agreement of our Allies. So that as the General Treaty appears accompanied with many difficulties, and that we foresee that it will be a means to continue this unhappy War, which we desire to put an end to speedily, especially with your Majesty, we shall think our selves very happy if any of these considerations may make impression upon your Majesties mind, and dispose you to resume those sentiments which we have heretofore with joy observed in your Majesty, and in which, upon the Reconciliation we promise to our selves, we doubt not but your Majesty will continue for ever. In the mean time we pray God,

SIRE,

To Crown your Majestie's Reign with felicity, and to bless your Royal Person with health and long life.

At the Hague the 25th of October, 1673.

Your MAJESTIES

most humble Servants,

The States General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries.

GASP. FAGEL.

By Command of the abovesaid,

H. FAGEL.

HIS

His MAJESTIES *Answer to the Letter sent from the* STATES GENERAL *Of the United Provinces of the Low Countreys, by their Trumpeter.*

High and Mighty Lords, Although your Letter of the 25*th* of *October*, considering the present conjuncture of affairs, the matter it contains, and the manner of sending it by a Trumpeter when your Deputies at *Cologne* were in frequent conferences with Our Plenipotentiaries there, have more of the nature of a manifest then a Letter, & that consequently you may not perhaps desire to have any answer made to it; yet for the Vindication of Our Honour, as well as for the undeceiving that part of the World which may be abused by it. We would not suffer it to remain without a distinct Reply from point to point as they lie in your paper (which We send you by the same hand that brought Us yours;) and the rather because it may so have fallen out, that by the great revolutions which have lately hapened in your affairs and the change of your Ministers, even your selves may have taken for truth what evil-minded persons have so maliciously suggested to you, thereby to seduce your own people as well as Ours.

There will need no great proofs to convince the World that many offensive medalls, Inscriptions and Libels were these last years past dispersed every where in your Provinces, to the derogation of Our Honour, and that of the whole *English* Nation, since the notoriety of them was so universal? but to this day neither We nor any body else knew you had disowned any part of them, untill your aforesaid Letter told Us you had at the time they were complained of to your Ambassador here, caused the Stamps to be broken for fear new Impressions should be secretly made by them; neither do you yet tell Us that ever you inflicted the least Punishment upon the makers or dispersers of them.

As to the affaires of *Surinam*; could you make the World or Our people believe what in this Paper you affirm, your selves would have outdone your medalls, and would be more injurious then they, fastening a Reproach upon Us which We have been as far from deserving, as you, We hope, will be from being believed in the accusation. You say, you agreed to whatsoever We demanded in favour of Our Subjects remaining at *Surinam*. Did We not continually press their Release from the time of Our Surrendring that place into your hands till the beginning of this present War, and is their not yet the greater part of them remaining there? Are they there detained your *Slaves* at Our desire? Did We send Our *Ships* thither onely for a colour, with intention to subject them to your Tyranny more intirely, & with the greater decency? and not to deliver them from it? Was not the Officer We sent thither, major *Banister*, confined presently upon his arrival, and not suffered to speak with his countreymen, or acquaint them with the care We had of them? Did he not protest against the Governour for having broken the capeitulation in eighteen several points? And will you say all this was done according to what We desired? Had you been so tender of the bloud of both Nations as in your Paper you pretend, you would not so long and with so much obstinacy have persisted in oppressing those Our *Subjects* whom you detain in that colony. And it is manifest that if you could cast all the blame hereof upon Vs, You have a mind to do it. All We can say therefore to this your assertion is, That you have indeed granted Us in words all We asked but that We have never obtained any thing of you in Deeds.

What followed, was the pretended satisfaction you say you offered at all times to make [illegible] to the Trade of Our Subjects in the *East-Indies*. It was solemnly promised

e Treaty of *Breda*, that things ſhould be adjuſted by Commiſſioners to be ſent hither by
ou when there ſhould be more leiſure for it. But you well know that Our Ambaſſador
hom We ſent after the ſaid Treaty to reſide with you, could obtain nothing in that matter
y all his Inſtances that could in any wiſe ſatisfie Our *Eaſt-India* company. Nor did the Sieur
an Beuningen: who ſeemed to have come hither expreſly upon that account, offer any more
all his conferrences with our Commiſſioners upon that Subject. It is true, the Ambaſſador
orrel produced here a full Power from you to treat and conclude an Offenſive and Defenſive
eague with Vs, but We could not accept the propoſition, becauſe the conditions of it were
ot ſufficiently equitable, and that inſtead of giving Us ſatisfaction in Our complaints, he
ould never ſo much as admit of their being mentioned. On the contrary his whole diſcourſe
nded to nothing elſe but to perſwade Vs that the *States* General offered Vs this League
a mark of their Friendſhip and for Our ſecurity alone, ſeeming indifferent whe-
er it were accepted or not; and magnifying continually the greatneſs of your
orces by Land and Sea, as ſufficient to defend you againſt the formidable power of
rance; and often threatning Vs, that you could make ſuch a *League* whenſoever
u pleaſed with *France*, and even againſt Vs, if We accepted not what His Maſters offered
s. The ſum of theſe two points is, That the Sieur *Vaun Beuningen* was pleaſed to diſcourſe
ncerning the ſatisfaction demanded by Vs in point of Trade in the *Eaſt-Indies*, but depart-
without offering any thing; and the Sieur *Boreel* offered Vs a League Offenſive and Defen-
e, without giving Vs ſatisfaction for the paſt Injuries, or ſecurity againſt future; And all
is to the end the Injuries We had complained of that till then were peculiarly your Acts,
ight by a ſolemn Treaty be declared Our own,

The next matter of offence given Vs was (as you well obſerve in your *Letter*) the affront
mitted againſt Our Flagg in the moneth of *Auguſt* 1671, complaint was made thereof to
ur Ambaſſador reſiding here, & he aſſured Vs he would procure Vs a fair ſatisfaction there-
on: but three or four moneths time paſſing without the leaſt notice being taken thereof by
u, We held Our Self Obliged to ſend Our Extroordinary Ambaſſador to demand Satisfa-
on of you in more earneſt terms then We had done before; To which not receiving any
ſfactory Anſwer; he had order to return. Soon after he was followed by an Extroordina-
Ambaſſador from you, who affirmed that he had no powers to make reparation for this af-
nt, or any other of thoſe things We had ſo often complained of, but to agree upon terms
egulation in the buſineſs of the Flagg for the future; yet ſaying withall, that of him-
and without conſulting you again he could not put any thing in writing concerning it. The
ival of the ſaid *Ambaſſador Extroordinary* was about the time We were ready to make
n Declaration of War againſt your *States*, which We could no longer delay becauſe the
ng was coming on; and the ſaid Ambaſſador perſiſted that his Inſtructions permitted him
to do any thing upon Our Demands; neither was he able to produce any thing to juſtifie
delay, but the Offering Vs to write to his Maſters for *Larger* Powers and Inſtructions.
he War following upon this, In the heat of it, Three Deputies arrived here from you
out any Paſſport from Vs, or giving us notice of their coming according to the Cuſtoms
Wages of War. Whereupon We might well have confined them (as you ſay We did)
We contented Our Self with warning them to abſtain from coming to lodge in this Our
appointing them inſtead there of Lodgings in Our Palace of *Hampton Court*, with all
conveniences ſuitable to their Character, and diſſembling what We knew paſſed be-
them and perſons they practiſed upon to cauſe tumults and diſorders in Our City, & to
b the progreſs of the War. Notwithſtanding which, We forbore not to ſend ſeveral
of the Principal perſons of Our Council to confer with

To whom they made this onely answer, and persisted therein to the time of their departure that they had no Authority or Instructions to make any propositions, but were content to hearken to those that should be made to them, and to transmit them to their Masters; hoping that while they amused Vs with this appearance, the Deputies, you had sent at the same time to the most Christian King might have concluded a separate Treaty with him.

And can you flatter your selves with the opinion that the World should look upon this proceeding as a convincing proof of your ardent desires for Peace? Did ever Prince or State send an Ambassador with design to obtain that which the Ambassador was not empowered either to conclude or sign, especially to a Prince with whom they had War? It is much more rational to believe what you did, was to gain time, whilst you endeavoured to put in execution those threats in Relation to *France* that the Sieur *Boreel* had before given Vs.

The Minister of *Brandenburgh* never declared that he came hither to make Vs any overtures of Peace, or that he had any other Commission then to incline Vs at the recommendation of His Master to hearken to those that should be made Vs. He came hither at the time that the Ambassador Extraordinary of His most Serene Majesty the King of *Sweden* arrived, in ordering to the offering Vs the mediation of their master, which We readily embraced, as likewise a proposition made by them to Vs for a Suspension of Arms. But a little after we as they proposed the same thing to you, you thought fit absolutely to Reject the Suspension, and were so long bargaining upon the choice of a place for treating the Peace that many moneths passed without producing any other effect than your gaining your point in naming the City of *Cologne* for the Congress: Which being agreed to, and Our Fleet ready to put to Sea, You sent Vs word you would then accept a cessation of Arms by Sea. To which We found Our Self Obliged to make answer, That a Peace might be made in much less time then the terms of a partial Suspension be agreed upon; although it appeared to Vs a meer artifice invented onely to charm the common Peoples ears, & make Vs consume unprofitably all Our preparations for equiping Our Fleet. In a word, when Our merchants might really have received benefit by a Suspension, you absolutely refused it, and would then onely yeild to it when you saw your Provinces like to suffer by the progress of the War.

The ministers of *Spain* never offered Vs any conditions, nor performed any other office, then in general terms to incline Vs to the thoughts of Peace; which We ever accepted kindly from them.

Neither did Our Nephew the Prince of *Orange* ever make Vs any Overtures for Peace. We must needs avow, That the manner of your comportment towards him till the year last past, was no very good Argument to perswade Vs, that your intentions of living in a good Correspondence with Vs, were real and sincere: And although We were unwilling to shew Our resentment of his Usage publiquely, lest We should give occasion to his Enemies to do him more harm; yet so soon as the good will of the People prevailing against the *Louvestein* party, had conferred upon him that Power and Authority in the Government which his Ancestors had so well merited, We applied Our Self with more Zeal and Efficasie to mak the Peace; being further incited thereunto by the unexpected Success of the Arms by Land of the most Christian King, We forthwith sent Ambassadors Extraordinary to him. to be present at the Treaty which the *Louvestein* party would have managed to the excluding of Vs, if the virtue and Generosity of that Prince would have permitted him to admit it: But so soon as Our Ambassadors were seen upon the place, the Deputies withdrew themselves, and never after appeared following that fundamental maxim you had laid from the begining of this War, to divide Vs by any kind of Artifices, thereof to make your own advantage.

As to your insinuation of Our intention, to ruine Our Nephew the Prince of *Orange*, yo[u]

omplain to the mediators that We are too Zealous in advancing His Interests, you would have Our Subjects believe we are guilty of ill nature towards him. And the better to improve his abuse you add, without giving or having any the least ground for it, That Our demands at *Cologne* tend to the subversion of the Protestant Religion, and the ruine of Our Nephews family. We cannot conclude Our remarks upon this Letter or manifest framed by you with design to abuse your People and Ours, and involved in terms of respect for Our Person, and fair words about a Peace, without adding what ought to be convincing to the most obstinate amongst you, At the same time you would perswade Us to break Our Word and Faith given to Our Allies, Not to treat separately, you establish it for a Fundamental point, that you cannot break the word you have given yours, without wronging your Honour; as if your honour ought always to be dear to you, but Ours of little or no value with Vs.

In the mean time, you make the Proceedings of your Deputies at *Cologne* to pass for the fairest and most Ingenious that may be, reproaching that of Our Plenipotentiaries, as rude and insincere; saying, that notwithstanding all your endeavours, We would never yet abate of Our first rigour. Herein We appeal to the mediators themselves, who will not be wanting to do Vs justice in letting the World know, that Our said Plenipotentieries have retrenched at least one half of their first demands, whilst yours have continually excused themselves from giving an answer upon any one of them, except that of the Flagg, with which they seeme inclined to gratifie Vs for the future, but in terms very equivocal, and which shall not take notice of any right We ever had to it for the time past: And this is the onely thing you have shewn the least disposition to yeild to Vs during the whole course of this Negotiation; And having made no further advance in the overtures of Peace which you say you made Vs by Our Nephew the Prince of *Orange*, the ministers of *Spain* and *Brandenburgh*, and by those of the mediators themselves, you do not so much as mention one word of it in your said Letter; handling the matter of the Peace in general terms, to acquire to your selves the reputation of it, and not making Vs one proposition but that of dividing Us from our Allies; an action which you esteem too low for a common-wealth, but suitable enough to a King.

If you have a desire to promote the peace in good earnest, instead of specious expressions, send powers without further delay to your Deputies at *Cologne*, to draw up Just and Equal Articles with Ours, and the World shall see how ready We shall be to comply with them, and to resume those sentiments of Friendship and Esteem which the Kings Our Predecessors have always had for your State: And to manifest to you that We are truly

From White-hall the 7th of November, 1673.

Your Good Friend,

CHARLES R.

FINIS.

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